

Ten Feng Shui Tips for Martial Arts Studios

By Kathryn Weber

The West is presently experiencing an exploding interest in feng shui (pronounced fung shway). Often described as the Chinese art of placement, it is more correctly the art of alignment. Like acupuncture, which seeks to correct physical problems by unblocking the flow of energy through the body, feng shui seeks to correct problems caused by blocked energy in a space. Below are ten tips that address some of the specific needs of martial arts studios.



1. Mirrors If your front door is reflected in your studio's mirrors, then opportunities are being lost. Perhaps enrollment is low, students inquire about classes and never come back, or student turnover is high. If so, place a barrier, such as a screen or wall, opposite the door so the front door is not reflected in a mirror.

2. Recognition Every studio needs recognition to promote itself and increase enrollment. Place all trophies, certificates, published articles, and awards on the south (recognition) wall of the studio. Or, make a display area on the south wall of the entry or waiting area. Having letters of praise from parents in this portion of the waiting area will help promote more enrollments.

3. Separation It is important to provide a separate area where visitors or inquiries can be greeted without disturbing classes. However, a window should be provided so potential students or parents can observe a class.

4. Sales Area If you sell items for your studio, such as uniforms, consider having the sales and waiting area next to each other. Try to position this in the southeast portion of the studio, or the southeast area of the waiting area, because the SE is the wealth corner.

5. Bathroom This should be meticulously clean as bathrooms exert a strong negative

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influence. Doors should always remain closed, especially if the bathroom can be seen from the studio. Try to block the view of the bathroom, attaching an automatic door closer if the door frequently stays open. Place a mirror on the outside of the door to counteract its draining presence.

6. Colors If your studio faces northeast, east, southeast, or southwest, earth tones of beige and ochre are appropriate colors. Because these are grounding colors, they are especially good if you want to gain more control of the class. If your studio faces north, northwest, or west, or if you want to energize your studio, white, a yang color, is appropriate.

Limit the use of black and blue in the studio as these are yin colors. Some black and blue is appropriate, but overuse will make students sluggish and unenergetic. Red is a good yang color and would make a nice

accent color on a south wall where awards are displayed. Overuse can create too much aggression and lack of focus.

7. Entrances The front entrance is critical in feng shui. These should be clean, well lit, and inviting. Avoid violent graphics at the door, which may scare away potential students. A simple fountain inside the door or plants outside the door invites wealth and prosperity in and creates a welcoming presence — especially to women — a growing segment for martial arts studios. You should also

not be able to see from the front out the back of the studio, or money and enrollments will be lacking.

8. Symbols Placed correctly, dragons imbue power and influence. Place black or green dragons in the east or on an east wall, black or gold dragons in the north or north wall, and red dragons on a south or southwest wall. Try to avoid images of tigers as these exert too much energy, which can cause accidents and injuries or excess aggression.

9. Concentration Emphasize the northeast sector or wall of the studio or waiting area to inspire greater student concentration. The northeast symbolizes learning, self-mastery and meditation. A large stone, a picture of a mountain, a globe, a map of the earth, or tranquil pictures of masters will inspire concentration in students. Likewise, studio principles or mottos can also be placed in this location.

10. Violent Images If your studio is made up primarily of children, then monitoring the wall art or decoration is important. Images of violence (fighting, tigers, blood, pain, etc.) should be replaced with images that depict the skill, concentration, control and mastery of martial arts.

